

## **Our current health crisis**

As brothers and sisters in Christ, our desire is to care for one another and keep each other safe through this unprecedented pandemic.

Today you will have helped yourself to a bulletin from a table in the Glasshouse, and have been warmly welcomed in the foyer without physical contact. This will be 'our new norm' for as long as is required.

We are being conscientious about frequently cleaning surfaces at church and ask you to keep safe distance between yourself and others (1.5 metres is recommended, from other worshippers and our musicians)

You will know already the advice about the importance of frequent and thorough hand washing. Paper towels for drying your hands are in the bathrooms. Sanitiser is available in the glasshouse and at the table outside the office. Please bring your own toys for your children during this time when the virus is spreading.

Please stay away from church if you are unwell or self-isolating. If you feel unwell during a service, please feel free to slip home. Copies of the bulletin and sermons can be emailed to you or will be on our website, or you can ring the office asking to have such information put in your mailbox. Rachel and our Session members are happy to have pastoral phone conversations with you at times that suit you. Their contact phone numbers are on the first page of our Parish Directory.

Please pray for one another, for health providers, our government making key decisions about protection and our economy, for those who are ill, for their healing, and for a swift end to this pandemic.

With love in Christ,  
Rachel, and Session members.



# Message from the Moderator

 Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

## Greetings

As fears mount about the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19), I wanted to reach out to all within our Church.

We are concerned about how Covid-19 will affect us, our families, our churches and our communities. For many of us, there is added stress that our livelihoods are at risk, as measures to contain Covid-19 impact our jobs.

I urge you not to panic. The New Zealand government response to Coronavirus has been swift and comprehensive and is helping to minimise the impact on Kiwi families. But, these are indeed difficult times, and it is at exactly these times that our faith becomes even more important. I look to Jesus' words for comfort: "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

While many things have been cancelled by the Coronavirus, love has not, and I urge you to take all practical steps to care for yourself and others.

Please respond to the call to introduce measures into your daily life – not shaking hands, keeping personal distance, limiting travel – to slow the spread of the virus.

Faith communities typically come together in times like these, and while most of our congregations (those under 500 people) can still gather, there may come a time when this isn't possible. If this was to occur, I remind you that you are not alone – God is with always with us: "This is my command — be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

We are in this together – as Kiwis, as Christians and as communities, and I ask that you keep in your prayers the sick, all the medical professionals and others working hard to help keep Kiwis safe.

Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio  
Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand